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Report of the International Court of Justice

Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Revised Terms of Reference, Guidelines and Rules of the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice (A/59/372, annex), and is subsequent to the report submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session (A/61/380).

II. Mandate

2. The Trust Fund was established in 1989 under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations following consultations with the President of the International Court of Justice. In accordance with the Revised Terms of Reference, financial assistance is to be provided to States for expenses incurred in connection with: (a) a dispute submitted to the Court by way of a special agreement, on the basis of Article 36, paragraph 1, of its Statute; (b) a dispute submitted to the Court by way of an application on the basis of Article 36, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its Statute, provided certain conditions are fulfilled (see A/59/372, annex, para. 6 (ii)); or (c) the execution of a judgment of the Court.

III. Beneficiaries

3. Subject to the requirements of paragraph 6 of the Revised Terms of Reference, an application for financial assistance from the Fund may be submitted by any State

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Member of the United Nations, any other State party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice or any State not party to the Statute of the Court having complied with Article 35, paragraph 2, of the Statute.

4. During the period under review (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007), the Fund received, on 20 March 2007, an application from Djibouti to defray the expenses incurred in connection with the institution of proceedings by Djibouti in the International Court of Justice in the case concerning *Certain Questions of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters* (Djibouti v. France). A Panel has been established by the Secretary-General to review the application by Djibouti.

IV. Contributions

5. Voluntary contributions to the Fund may be made by States, intergovernmental organizations, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and by natural and juridical persons.

6. During the period under review, States contributed to the Fund as follows:

State	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Financial year*
Mexico	5 000,00	2006
Finland	12 724.00	2006
Spain	32 005.00	2006
Norway	16 048.29	2006
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1 024.14	2007
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	39 344.00	2007
Total	**106 145.43**	

7. As of 30 June 2007, the total balance of the Fund was $2,402,864.00. This amount excludes awards that have already been paid.

V. Needs assessment

8. The Fund was created with a view to facilitating a decision by parties to a dispute to seek judicial settlement of their dispute through the Court. I am grateful to those Member States that contributed to the Fund during the period under review. However, I note that the overall amount contributed during the current period has decreased by almost 34 per cent compared to the previous period (1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006). For that reason, I strongly urge all States and other relevant entities to give serious consideration to making contributions to the Fund, not only in a substantial manner but on a regular basis.

VI. How to contribute

9. Voluntary contributions to the Fund can be made by bank transfer or by cheque to the order of the United Nations, indicating that it is for the "ICJ Trust Fund, account code TJA" in the reference field. Cheques should be sent to:

Cashier's Office
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

10. For any additional information, please contact the Office of the Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs (telephone: 1 212 963 5350; fax: 1 212 963 6430).